

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-8 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 9-11 are canceled. No new matter is added.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 CFR §1.116 because the amendments: (a) place the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) do not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (as the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution); (c) satisfy a requirement of form asserted in the previous Office Action; (d) do not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and (e) place the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The amendments are necessary and were not earlier presented because they are made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. Entry of the amendments is thus respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

I. Allowed Claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 1, 2 and 4-8 are allowed. By this Amendment, only claims 1, 2 and 4-8 are pending. Thus, reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Office Action rejects claims 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 5,576,583 to Umehara in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,810,986 to Leupold. By this Amendment, claims 9 and 10 are canceled, thus the rejection is moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

III. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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